

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

I am extremely concerned about the potentiality for mergers between the United States' major television networks (CBS, NBC, Fox, etc.). The news Americans receive from television today is watered-down, one-sided, and fear-mongering enough! I don't watch it anymore because I would rather receive my news from more balanced sources (a mixture of independent media such as Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting and European news sources like the Independent). However, most Americans receive their news from television or local newspapers. If major networks are allowed to merge--which would undoubtedly cause job layoffs--and local newspapers are bought up by larger ones, where will people get balanced national, international, and local news. If nothing else, at least there are a plethora of decent, small newspapers in this nation that provide crucial local news to communities. If news sources like this are obliterated, this will take a major toll on democracy in this country. Plea! se protect diversity of media ownership and maintain controls on large media companies in the United States! We have already slipped far behind European countries in terms of news accuracy and coverage. I sincerely hope we do not slip even farther.